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AUTHOR Shaughnessy, Michael F.
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ABSTRACT

The development of reading is connected to the development of several habits, habits which once developed, will remain. Some of the habits that will get children reading and instill the habit of reading are: (1) use a book mark; (2) allow kids to read the same book twice; (3) have a dictionary handy and explain its use; (4) have magazines, newspapers, and other reading materials available; (5) read Christmas and other holiday cards with children; (6) write letters to relatives then read the responses together; (7) visit the library once a week if possible; (8) expose children to different forms of writing--for example, plays; (9) when vacationing, read about the destination and about some of the highlights; and (10) be consistent and persistent. (RS)

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TWENTY FIVE HABITS TO ENCOURAGE READING

MICHAEL F. SHAUGHNESSY
EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
PORTALES, NEW MEXICO 88130

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THE DEVELOPING OF READING IS CONNECTED TO THE DEVELOPMENTS OF SEVERAL HABITS. HERE ARE TWENTY FIVE HABITS THAT WILL GET YOUR CHILDREN READING AND INSTILL THE HABIT OF READING. HABITS, ONCE DEVELOPED, SEEM TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES. IF CHILDREN DEVELOP GOOD HABITS, THOSE GOOD HABITS WILL REMAIN WITH THEM. IF THEY DEVELOP BAD HABITS, THESE ARE DIFFICULT TO BREAK.

1) USE A BOOK MARK. IT DOES NT HAVE TO BE FANCY- IT CAN BE AN INDEX CARD, OR IT CAN BE A COLORED PIECE OF PAPER. THE IMPORTANT CONCEPT IS THAT THE CHILD BEGINS TO LEARN IT'S USE AND BEGINS TO USE IT HABITUALLY.

2) MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS DURING READING TIMES. TURN OFF THE TELEVISION AND TAKE THE PHONE OFF THE HOOK. UNPLUG THE RECORD PLAYER FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME TO LET OLDER SIBLINGS KNOW THAT YOU MEAN BUSINESS.

3) IF THE CHILD IS READING AND SEEMS TO BE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN READING A PARTICULAR BOOK, THIS MAY BE ONE TIME WHEN PARENTS CAN ALLOW A SON/DAUGHTER TO STAY UP LATER.

4) ALLOW KIDS TO READ THE SAME BOOK TWICE- DON'T EVER DISCOURAGE READING.

5) HAVE A DICTIONARY HANDY AND EXPLAIN IT'S USE AS CHILDREN GET OLDER.

6) MODEL READING YOURSELF. HAVE YOUR OWN SPECIFIC TIME FOR READING AND CARRY AROUND A PAMPHLET TO READ WHILE WAITING IN LINE IN STORES.

7) BE CONVINCVED YOURSELF THAT READING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL THAT CHILDREN CAN LEARN.

8) HAVE MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER READING MATERIALS AVAILABLE.

9) LEAVE KIDS NOTES OR PUT NOTES IN THEIR LUNCH BAGS THAT THEY CAN READ LATER.

10) USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH READING- LET KIDS READ THE MENU AT RESTAURANTS.

11) LEAVE CARTOONS AROUND FOR THE KIDS TO READ- PASTE THEM TO THE REFERIGERATOR DOOR. OR SCOTCH TAPE THEM AROUND.

12) READ CHRISTMAS CARDS AND HOLIDAY CARDS WITH YOUR CHILDREN. READ THE ENTIRE POEM OR MESSAGE.

13) WHEN CHILDREN ASK QUESTIONS, OFFER TO TAKE THEM TO THE LIBRARY TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS. THEN TEACH THEM LIBRARY SKILLS.

14) WHEN THE SUNDAY NEWSPAPER ARRIVES, READ SECTIONS TOGETHER.

15) THINK ABOUT SUBSCRIBING TO "HIGHLIGHTS" A VERY WELL KNOWN EDUCATIONAL MAGAZINE.

16) WRITE LETTERS TO RELATIVES, THEN READ THE RESPONSES TOGETHER.

17) IF POSSIBLE READ POEMS AND POETRY TO YOUR CHILDREN, THEN HAVE THEM TRY WRITING THEIR OWN POEMS.

18) EXPOSE THEM TO DIFFERENT FORMS OF WRITING- FOR EXAMPLE, PLAYS.

19) HELP THEM WITH HOMEWORK AND INSIST UPON HOMEWORK OR REVIEW, ON AT LEAST FOUR NIGHTS OF THE WEEK.

20) VISIT THE LIBRARY ONCE A WEEK IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

21) HELP THEM TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN PERSONAL LIBRARY OF BOOKS.

22) MONITOR WHAT THEY WATCH ON T.V. AND HOW MUCH THEY WATCH. REMEMBER THAT TIME SPENT WATCHING T.V. TAKES AWAY FROM READING DEVELOPMENT.

23) WHEN VACATIONING, READ ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND READ ABOUT SOME OF THE LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS.

24) TAKE YOU CHILD TO LOCAL MUSEUMS, ART GALLERIES AND OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS.

25) BE CONSISTENT IN ALL OF THE ABOVE. BE PERSISTENT IN ALL OF THE ABOVE.

THE ABOVE HABITS WILL ASSIST YOUR CHILDREN (AND STUDENTS) IN BECOMING BETTER READERS, AND IN ALL PROBABILITY, BETTER STUDENTS AND CITIZENS.